



CJAC Executive Committee Meeting June 14, 2017



What is Recidivism?

- Recidivism
 - A person's relapse into a previous condition or mode of behavior
- Desistence
 - The process by which a person arrives at a permanent state of non-offending

**** A person either recidivates or desists ****



Comparing Recidivism Rates

- Comparing recidivism rates across programs and jurisdictions is difficult
 - Types of offenders (risk level varies)
 - Types of offenses (can you compare a violent offense to a shoplifting charge?)
 - Types of supervision (some environments are ‘riskier’ than others)
 - Methodologies differ



Recidivism

Historically, the county has measured recidivism by focusing on those individuals committed to the county jail and measuring if those individuals were re-booked into the jail (for any reason) within a specified period of time.

For example:

1,000 individuals in 2014 released after serving a commitment.

If 400 of these individuals were booked again within 1 year (for any reason), the recidivism rate would be 40%



Recidivism – Current

Advantages:

- Measures the number of individuals who consume jail resources

Disadvantages:

- May not be the most accurate measure to determine the impact on other resources (court, prosecution, etc.)
- Does not include individuals who recidivate but are not booked into jail
- Does not allow for an effective comparison to other programs



Other Ways to Measure Recidivism

- New Bookings (for new charges only)
- New Charges
- New Convictions
- Others?



Recidivism: New Jail Bookings (New Charges only)

Advantages:

- Expands the population from only those who have been booked to those who were convicted and later consumed jail resources with a new charge booking (as a result of a new crime committed)
- Helps measure impact on county jail beds

Disadvantages

- Does not include individuals who commit crimes, but are not booked into jail (i.e., misses a lot of Class B and C misdemeanor crime and some non-violent Class A's)



Recidivism: New Charges Filed with Court

Advantages:

- Captures all criminal activity (felonies and misdemeanors)
- Captures charges filed in all county district and justice courts

Disadvantages:

- Includes all criminal charges in justice court, even if minor (traffic violations, etc.)
- Includes charges on which the individual may not have been convicted
- Does not show impact to county jail



Recidivism: New Charges Resulting in Convictions

Advantages:

- Excludes offenses for which the individual was not convicted
- Captures all criminal activity (felonies and misdemeanors)
- Captures all cases in county district and justice courts

Disadvantages:

- Includes all criminal convictions, even if minor (i.e., traffic violations)
- Excludes potential criminal acts that resulted in arrest and booking, but not conviction
- Does not measure impact to county jail